

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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53

ACTION SY-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEA-10 USSS-00 OC-06 CCO-00

AID-20 SS-15 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 IO-13 A-01

EB-11 SCA-01 DRC-01 SSO-00 /170 W

----- 114967

P 171700Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4894

INFO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINSHASA 8108

LIBREVILLE FOR RSO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, CG

SUBJECT: LETTER BOMB EXPLODES AT UK EMBASSY

REF: KINSHASA 8102

FOLLOWING IS ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL DATA ON LETTER BOMB
THAT EXPLODED AT APPROXIMATELY 0930 SEPT 17 IN UK EMB:

1. EXTERIOR APPEARANCE: BROWN ENVELOPE OF TYPE USED
FOR PERIODICALS OR PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL. APPROX. 7" X
4-3/4" X 1/2" IN SIZE. ENVELOPE ADDRESSED IN LIGHT BLUE
INK TO UK AMB USING FULL NAME AND TITLE BUT FORMER
ADDRESS OF EMBASSY. "PAR AVION" ALSO HANDWRITTEN IN
STYLE WHICH LEADS BRITISH OFFICIALS TO BELIEVE IT
WRITTEN BY PERSON OF FRENCH SCHOOLING. LETTER AIR-
MAILED FROM PARIS WITH MACHINE ISSUED POSTAGE TO VALUE
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OF FRANCS 17.50. ENVELOPE WEIGHED 8-10 OZ.

2. CONTENTS: PAPERBACK TYPE BOOK SIZE 6-1/2" X 4-1/2"

X 1/2". TITLE: "THE BLUFFER'S GUIDE, YOU WAY IN
MARKETING".

3. EXPLOSIVE: TWO TO THREE OZ. DARK BLACK MATERIAL
SPECKED WITH WHITE CRYSTALS WITH CONSISTENCY OF PLIABLE
TAR. FAINT SMELL OF NITROGLYCERINE DISCERNIBLE.
SECURITY OFFICER FROM ISRAELI EMB SPECULATED EXPLOSIVE
MIGHT BE TYPE 808 OR "ALMOND SOAP". ORDINANCE OFFICER
ATTACHED TO US MILITARY MISSION WHO EXAMINED BOMB,
BELIEVES TYPE 808 TO VOLATILE TO SURVIVE MAILS AND THAT
MATERIAL PROBABLY NOT TYPE 808. HOWEVER, HE CANNOT
IDENTIFY EXPLOSIVE MATERIAL.

4. DETONATING DEVICE: SMALL ELECTRIC COPPER BLASTING
CAP (POSSIBLY SIMILAR TO NO. 6) POWERED BY SMALL FLAT
NICKLE CADMIUM BATTERY CONNECTED TO STRIPS OF TIN FOIL
CONTACTS GLUED TO OPPOSITE PAGES OF BOOK. CONTACTS WERE
SEPARATED BY CARDBOARD INSULATOR GLUED TO ENVELOPE.

5. EXPLOSION OCCURRED WHEN BOOK WITHDRAWN APPROXIMATELY
1-1/2". BLASTING CAP APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN IMPROPERLY
POSITIONED AND NOT IN LINE WITH EXPLOSIVE, THEREFORE,
ONLY BLASTING CAP AND SMALL AMOUNT OF CHARGE ACTUALLY
DETONATED, MANGLING HAND OF U.K. SECURITY OFFICER BUT
NOT INJURING TWO BYSTANDERS. IF FULL CHARGE HAD DETONATED,
EXPLOSIVE EXPERT BELIEVES ALL THREE WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED.

6. EMB HAS OBTAINED SAMPLE OF EXPLOSIVE FOR ANALYSIS
AND REQUESTS INSTRUCTIONS FOR FORWARDING. PHOTOS AND
DRAWINGS OF EXPLOSIVE DEVICE WILL BBE SENT NEXT AIRPOUCH.
VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, BOMB DAMAGE, POSTAL SERVICE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1973
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KINSHA08108
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730930/aaaaawda.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SY
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: KINSHASA 8102
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30-Jan-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETTER BOMB EXPLODES AT UK EMBASSY
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, CG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005